

# Fraction Action: Fractions Are Numbers Too! Got Math?

Fractions are everywhere! They're in the food we eat, the time we tell, and even the music we listen to. But what exactly are fractions, and how do they work? In this article, we'll explore the world of fractions, from simple concepts to more advanced applications.

## What is a Fraction?

A fraction is a mathematical expression that represents a part of a whole. It consists of two numbers: the numerator and the denominator. The numerator is the number above the fraction bar, and the denominator is the number below the fraction bar.



## Fraction Action: Fractions Are Numbers Too (Got Math!) by Fraser J. Hay

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For example, the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$  means "one half." This means that the fraction represents one part of a whole that has been divided into two equal parts.

## Types of Fractions

There are many different types of fractions, including:

- **Proper fractions:** The numerator is smaller than the denominator. (Example:  $1/2$ )
- **Improper fractions:** The numerator is larger than or equal to the denominator. (Example:  $3/2$ )
- **Mixed numbers:** A combination of a whole number and a fraction. (Example:  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ )
- **Decimal fractions:** Fractions that are expressed as decimals. (Example: 0.5)

## Operations with Fractions

You can perform various operations with fractions, including:

- **Addition:** To add fractions with the same denominator, add the numerators and keep the denominator the same. (Example:  $1/2 + 1/2 = 2/2$ )
- **Subtraction:** To subtract fractions with the same denominator, subtract the numerators and keep the denominator the same. (Example:  $1/2 - 1/4 = 2/4 - 1/4 = 1/4$ )
- **Multiplication:** To multiply fractions, multiply the numerators together and the denominators together. (Example:  $1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/6$ )
- **Division:** To divide fractions, flip the second fraction (the divisor) and multiply. (Example:  $1/2 \div 1/4 = 1/2 \times 4/1 = 4/2 = 2$ )

## Applications of Fractions

Fractions have numerous applications in real life, including:

- **Cooking:** When following recipes, fractions are used to measure ingredients accurately. (Example:  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of flour)
- **Time:** Time is often expressed using fractions. (Example: 3:30 pm is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours after noon)
- **Music:** Musical notes are represented using fractions to indicate their duration. (Example: A quarter note is represented as  $\frac{1}{4}$ )
- **Geometry:** Fractions are used to calculate the area and volume of shapes. (Example: The area of a rectangle is calculated as length x width, where length and width can be fractions)

Fractions are essential mathematical concepts that represent a part of a whole. They come in various types and can be used to perform various operations, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Fractions have wide-ranging applications in real life, from cooking and timekeeping to music and geometry. By understanding fractions, you can enhance your mathematical skills and make sense of the world around you.

Remember, Got Math? is here to help you navigate the world of fractions and other mathematical concepts with confidence and ease.

### **Additional Resources**

- Khan Academy: Fractions
- Education.com: Fractions
- Math is Fun: Fractions

# Multiplying Fractions

> Fraction times Fraction

$$\frac{5}{6} \times \frac{3}{4} = ?$$

> Fraction times Whole Number

$$\frac{5}{6} \times 8 = ?$$



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